

Dear Father Alôysius:

9-3-46

Thank you so much for your Easter greeting, and I am especially grateful to you for the remembrance on Holy Thursday and Good Friday....I remembered you in my prayers also. Our High Mass on Easter Sunday was beautiful and our altar was a miniature heaven. Our altar, linens, vestments, etc. are always immaculate and woe to the altar boy who would show up with a dirty face or hands. Our nuns are tireless in the care they take of our altar and I am sure they must be very pleasing in the eyes of God, because I have been in beautiful churches and seen half-dead flowers and vestments not too clean. After Bl. Mother appeared to Peré Lamy while he was cleaning the church, he made the remark that Blessed Mother is a good housekeeper....have you read that life?

Well, Father Kapsner finally came to our home for a visit. He arrived in time for dinner last Friday and spent the evening. I invited some friends in to meet Father and the time simply flew...I was wishing the clock would stop and we could go on talking indefinitely about the things of God, and Father is such an interesting talker. One of my guests is a convert and he called me next day to say he had never had such an enjoyable evening. Father Celestine is now publishing the meditation on the angels by Ancilla from ~~Rathak~~ Frekd. von Lama's book, translated by Fr. Dahmus of ND. It was revealed to this mystic that all who belong to the Confraternity of Bl. Grignon de Montfort had not one, but two angels, the ordinary angel and an archangel taken from the company of St. Gabriel. I found that most interesting. If you would like a copy, it will give me pleasure to send it, as I am sending an order off to Father in a day or two. I have this meditation, in a shorter form, but it is a poor translation. Perhaps you know Fr. Dahmus...he is a neighbor of Fr. Roessler.

Marie-Rose Ferron will be dead 10 years on May 11th, at 10 AM, so I hope you will remember to send your greetings to her at that time. I have just made a relic for you and I hope Rose will some day scent it for you, as she has done for others.

Also enclosed is a bit of spring from Baltimore. 'Tis a shame to waste beautiful flowers on lampposts when they could be placed on an altar, but they do look so nice. Have you seen the article in current SATURDAY EVENING POST on our city? The second picture (skyline) was taken a block from our home, on Federal Hill....Father Celestine was also amused at our white marble steps, when he left Minn. and gave his ticket to the conductor the remark was "you are going to the city of the white marble steps" and visitors are always amused to find us on our knees scrubbing them. I have seen the Cone collection mentioned in the article. Miss Etta Cone, the owner, was kind enough to show me the entire collection. She, her sister and her brother, the two latter now deceased, traveled many times around the globe collecting these articles. The lady is a Jewess and somehow our conversation got on the Blessed Mother. She told me that she does not often show her collection, but was showing it to me because I had such a love for the Blessed Mother, and she asked me what IHS meant, and showed me a beautiful old cabinet, which had come from a church in Europe, with this inscription. Her statues and pictures of Our Lady are priceless. I was having a wonderful time among all those beautiful things, until I sneezed, and then Miss Cone told me if she had known I had a cold she would not have invited me. She is very old and takes good care of herself. Of course, I did not have a cold, I just have a healthy sneeze which stays with me year in and year out, and is good for a hearty laugh when anyone hears me.

The AUTOBIOGRAPHY was wonderful and I intend to re-read it many times...in a day or two I will send some more orders. Your Chicago House made current REGISTER. A friend in England who recently visited the home of Margaret Sinclair, sent me his large copy of her life and I will read that next...Thanks to Bill, I have a fine Margaret S. collection of booklets, relics, pictures, etc. This man is interested in the lepers, lectures on them and collects funds for them. During the war he was alone in a shack when a lamp overturned and he was trapped, as flames had blocked his way to the only exit. He sent up a quick prayer to Marie-Rose Ferron and then remembered a small window and made his escape, staggered away from the burning building and collapsed. He attributed his miraculous escape to Rose's intercession and is now promoting her cause. The doctors were baffled by his quick recovery from the burns.

After I had finished copying the extracts from the life of Sr. Mary of Jesus Crucified, I received a letter from Fr. McNamara of Chicago enclosing the Holy Ghost medals, blessed by Our Lord, so I will include one in this letter for you.

It's getting late and I am getting tired after a hectic day of dictation which has to be transcribed all of tomorrow, so what is left unsaid in this letter will be said this evening on Rose's rosary for the holy souls on your behalf. I still have my prayers and spiritual reading, after a little time with the family. Please send me your blessing Father and please remember me when you pay your regards to Our Lady during Her Month, and please say a prayer for my mother on Mother's Day, or I should say mothers, because so many had a hand in rearing me and showering me with kindnesses. On Sunday at Mass and Holy Communion I will remember your mother.

Sincerely in Christ

Betty

PS This letter will not reach you by the 10th 11th, so I will send a prayer to Rose for you.

B.

Dear Father Aloysius:

Thank you for placing so much confidence in me, and please be assured that what you have written will be held in the strictest confidence. I receive many messages from my friends, to relay to priests, and these messages are always forgotten when they leave my typewriter. Father Boyer would be the perfect director because he seems to have a special gift from God for helping souls, but he is spending time on his writings which should be spent in bed, so I doubt if he could help because of his poor health. Do you know Father Clarus Graves, O.S.B.? Father and you have many things in common, you are really twin-souls, so if you would like to write to him you may say that I suggested that you do so. Father would be so happy to hear from you, but he is at present in Mexico and was to have returned to the Abbey the middle of May, but had not come to this country as late as last week. I will let you know just as soon as he returns, and his address is St. John's Abbey, Collegeville Minn. Father is indeed on the summit of sanctity, but he would probably have my head in his hands for saying so as he is extremely humble. Our Lord loves him very VERY much.

Father ~~Ad~~ Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Michael's Monastery, 255 Jerome Ave. Brooklyn-7, N. Y.
is another holy priest who has hand-to-hand combats with Satan. I am enclosing his picture, but I have had no correspondence with him as he does not write, but I did talk with him over the 'phone the last time I was in NY, and I received his blessing. He was most gracious and invited me to write, which I did.

Father Fred Gruehn, S.V.D.

Holy Ghost Mission House,

East Troy, Wis.

is another holy priest. His work is among the priests, he teaches in their school, but spends a great deal of his time giving retreats and missions to the religious. Father said he is going to die soon. I think he would be the perfect director, and you may use my name when writing if you like, as we are close friends. I will not write to any of these priests unless you ask me to do so, but I have written to Fr. Boyer and am enclosing a copy of my letter. Perhaps you already know Fr. Roehmer, S.J. of Cincinnati, to whom the Sacred Heart appears. Father has been restricted under obedience, so I doubt if he could be of any help, but I know so many holy priests and if you want the names of others I will be glad to supply them. Even if you do not consider Fr. Clarus as a director, I wish you would write to him sometime, as you would have so many things in common and each of you would profit from the correspondence. I will let you know just as soon as Father returns to the States; incidentally, he speaks and writes Spanish, and has taught the language at the College. I will let you know what Fr. Boyer has to say in answer to my question.

Today I received an interesting book from my friends in England (Protestant). It is SPIRIT OF FLAME (A study of St. John of the Cross) by E. Allison Peers. If you would like to borrow it, it will give me pleasure to send it to you.

Have you ever heard of the promise which Our Lord made to St. Gertrude, that those who would thank Him for the graces given to the saint would receive an answer to their petition, providing of course that it is a spiritual favour they are asking. I started a novena along these lines this morning after Mass, asking Our Lord and St. Gertrude to send you the spiritual director Our Lord would select for you, and I hope my prayers will be answered. I have every confidence they will be, because my name is Gertrude Elizabeth and our name saints are always willing to help us. I am enclosing pictures of your St. Aloysius and some others which I think you might like.

Thank you for the remembrance in your prayers, Father, and please send me your blessing.

Sincerely in Christ

Betty

Hail, Heart of Mary
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Claretian Major Seminary
18127 South Alameda
Compton, California

September 4, 1946.

My dear Arthur,

I feel a great spiritual joy in writing to you to congratulate you for the decision you have taken. The seminarian to whom you wrote gave me in all confidence your last letter to him, advising me at the same time to keep complete secrecy about its contents. Now my prayers are for you very, very specially more than ever, my dear Arthur, so that you "make the grade" as you so aptly say in your letter. Since your health has been in the past on the delicate side, I am asking Our Lord to strengthen it, and make it vigorous enough to bear up with the austerities of the Trappist life.

To which Trappist monastery did you apply for admission? I am asking you this for I have been in correspondence with the Abbot of the Monastery of Our Lady of Gethsemany in Kentucky, Father Frederic M. Dunne, with regard to a certain boy who was formerly at our minor seminary here, and has been admitted on my recommendation to that Trappist Monastery. He will enter two years from now as soon as he finishes his High School, majoring in Latin. You see, my dear Arthur, that thus I will have two spiritual children with the Trappists: yourself, and this other boy, whose name is William Jones.

You really have had a great deal of sorrow, my dear boy, especially since the death of your saintly Mother. But remember, my dear Arthur, that God always gives us grace in proportion to our trials, so be well aware of the fact that the keener your sufferings,

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Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Claretian Major Seminary
18127 South Alameda
Compton, California

the more abundant will be the graces poured out upon yourself and your dear family. After all, the present fleeting life is not the real life, but only the means of attaining that life everlasting, which is the true life.

Do convey my deepest sympathy to your dear Father, who, as you state in your letter, is suffering from cancer. Our most merciful God, in His Divine Providence, has His secret and most wise designs about His beloved children, to prepare them more suitably for their eternal home. Your father is a man of deep faith and piety, and has been greatly tried in the crucible of tribulation. I will pray extra much for him so that he may become a saint with all that he is undergoing. It is a great grace of God to avail oneself properly of the trials, crosses, sicknesses, and adversities, in order to speed up one's sanctification and have with greater one's Purgatory on earth.

Greet every one of your family in my name, and consider me always a true of the O'Hara's. I hope to write you in the near future. Pray much for me. I am sending you some remembrances of the Silver Jubilee of my First Holy Profession, and some specially blessed badges of the Sacred Heart, the kind you want from me.

With my priestly blessings upon you,

In union of prayer,

Father Aloysius Eliacuria, C.M.F.

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

PP. Claretianos. Misioneros
Hijos del I. Corazón de María.
CALAHORRA. (Logroño)

Septiembre. A 6 y año 1946.

R.P. Juan Luis de Ellacuría.

Mi carísimo hermano Juan Luis: Que el Corazón de nuestra muy amada Madre te colme de sus bondadosas bendiciones y que el B.P. Claret te infunda del todo su espíritu apostólico y místico.

Me has de perdonar, mi querido Juan Luis, si he demorado la contestación. Ella es debida a que quería darte respuesta cabal a cuantas encuestas haces en tu interesantísima carta; y, aunque no puedo darte la respuesta que yo quisiera a cada una de las propuestas, interrumpo un tiempo precioso, para dedicarlo a la carta que te dirijo. He formulado el propósito de escribirte todos los meses, no sea que me ocurra como con la presente: desde que recibí la tuya, tenía en la mente la contestación; pero una ocupación tras otra me han absorbido el tiempo...

Adopté el nombre de María, añadido al de mi bautismo por muy graves razones. Pide a nuestra madre que cumpla yo a satisfacción el juramento que hicimos en la profesión de procurar el culto del Inmaculado Corazón de María... Ya está consagrado por el uso y la fama de los pueblos, donde he predicado, el nombre del P. JOSÉ MARÍA.

Repetiré, te lo prometo, muchas veces la jaculatoria: REGINA APOSTOLORUM, ORA PRO ME. Maxime en tiempo de misiones. ¡Si supieras como acojo tus sugerencias...!

Me felicitas por mis 35 años. Algo tarde recibí tu amada epístola; pero, tus cartas siempre me llegaron a tiempo... En mis 35 años dirijo la mirada atrás y veo que estuve forcejeando para salir a la vida ministerial hace ya más de media docena de años. Si no insistí más fue porque, según insinuación de un padre, podría encontrar peligros morales... Siempre me dieron los Superiores la misma respuesta: "Ya se ve que V.R. está cortado para el púlpito; pero, no tenga prisas..." Y cuando yo alegaba, que me faltaría preparación, me prometían destinarme a una casa de pto trabajo durante un par de años. Han pasado ese par de años y veo que de los 24 meses, 20 los he pasado en ministerio activo y fuera de casa. Me ha tocado tal vez el puesto más avanzado en la viña del Señor en nuestra Provincia de Castilla. Las circunstancias me hicieron actuar de primer espada desde el momento de mi llegada a Calahorra... Creo que he cumplido con mi deber. Ahora que, ten en cuenta, querido hermano, que necesito mucho reposo y estudio en el cuarto, que cada vez me obsesiona más y me encanta sobremedida. Solamente las misiones que he dado este año son 16. De ellas he dirigido en calidad de Superior de misión 12, 2 he actuado de subalterno y otras dos las prediqué solo. Luego te contare brevísimamente algunos casos edificantes de misiones.

Dices que alabas a Dios por las brillantes cualidades que me regaló para el púlpito. Es verdad; pero, también lo es que "Frustra est potentia quae non reducit ad actum" Quiero indicarte que, tal vez por mi negligencia o la demasiada ambición en ejercer otros cargos, me han robado un tiempo precioso para el púlpito. Por eso he propuesto que este año, el tercero de ministerio, sea el que me dé

el espaldarazo como predicador, misionero y orador consumado. Estoy francamente optimista. Cuando de veras me propongo una cosa, la consigo más tarde o más temprano. ¿Ejemplos? Un día en Castro sentí la necesidad de aprender el manejo perfecto de la bici. Poco tiempo trascurrió y ya me marchaba a los pueblos a celebrar la santa misa o a predicar, recorriendo en bicicleta, hasta treinta kilómetros, que son distancias considerables, teniendo en cuenta que las carreteras de la costa son generalmente muy irregulares y de muchos altibajos. Algunos peligros corrí, sin tener, gracias a Dios, percances desagraciados. Recuerdo que en una ocasión tuve que bajar unos tres kilómetros de cuesta abajo y muy pendiente, por descender desde lo alto de una colina hasta el mismo nivel del mar, sin frenos, pues éstos no pudieron resistir mi peso. Iba a una marcha cada vez mas desesperada; pero me dije: "Aquí sólo me puede salvar la serenidad..." A un lado los peñascos y al otro, el precipicio. Me agarré fuertemente al manillar, ya que me resultaba peligroso abollar el guardabarro o poner el pie en el neumático por los bruscos de los movimientos: lo más peligroso se me presentó a la entrada del pueblo inmediato a Castro, Mioño, que se halla al final de la cuesta: salía la gente de la iglesia... A unos cien metros empecé a gritar que se apartaran, porque no llevaba frenos y necesitaba el camino franco... Ahora me atterra el recuerdo de los peligros; sin embargo, cuando los pasaba, parecía que gozaba en ellos.

Otro día me propuse dominar las olas del mar y he sabido desafiar del vendaval y oleaje tormentoso del Cantábrico, sosteniendo luchas de tres y mas horas, para ejercitar mi caracter y templar mis nervios. Esto me ha valido para librar de la resaca a muchos padres, que, de lo contrario, se hubieran ahogado, y a muchos colegiales, que también me deben la vida, despues de la Providencia divina.

Una actuación pobre en el frontón del Colegio de Castro, donde jugaba a pala con Padres y seglares, me obligó a formular este propósito: "Si dicen que parece mentira que sea vasco, dominaré mejor que todos ellos la pala y la pelota..." Y conseguí ampliamente mi propósito. Despues ocurrió que no se podían adquirir pelotas de pala porque su material es norteamericano. Por fin, adquirí un verdadero arsenal de pellos o poros interiores de caucho, mediante los amigos que jugaban en los frontones principales de Bilbao y Madrid. Luego, faltaba el cuero para forrar las pelotas y... me propuse y conseguí curtir perfectamente los cueros de gato, que cazaba o en unas trampas preparadas por mí o con pistola, que he llegado a manejar con cierta destreza, hasta cazar palomas a bastantes metros de distancia... No te extrañe esto de la pistola. Hubo un tiempo en que mi vida se vió muy amenazada y unos amigos me facilitaron balas abundantes, para ejercitarme al blanco. Mi intención ha sido en ello inutilizar en un caso dado el antebrazo del tirador enemigo, para salvar mi vida. Por eso, me hacía falta una puntería muy ceñrtera

Diversos propósitos me han vuelto en ocasiones peluquero, carpintero, albañil, cómico, etc. Ayer mismo, antes de emprender el viaje a este pueblo, donde hoy, día 8, he predicado el sermón de S. Adrián, tuve que interrumpir la carta presente, porque se me agarrotó la máquina. He estado esperando al mecánico mas de 3 meses, para que me arreglara sus desperfectos, que son bastantes, o mejor dicho, han sido, porque ayer mismo desarmé casi por completo esta máquina y la dejé nueva, ahorrando unas 75 pesetas que me hubieran llevado por su arreglo.

Hace dos años cabales abandonaba el Colegio de Castro, completamente desorientado sobre los requisitos del sagrado ministerio. Han sido dos años de noviciado muy duro...; pero, ahora te repito que me he propuesto con el favor divino fijar muy alto mi cartel de orador sagrado. Cuento para ello con tus oraciones.

Me hablas de la familia, cuyas buenas noticias te halagan y alegran. Las cuatro hermanas van mejorando notablemente su condición social. Sobre todo, Poli. Tiene excelentes y hasta aristócratas amistades. Mary Tere y Pedro han estado ~~ya~~ visitarme en la pasada semana y se llevaron tus retratos, que les han gustado muchísimo. He hecho algunas fotos que te mandaré en la carta siguiente, aunque te incluiré en la presente algunas. Y es que no sabrás que soy aficionado fotógrafo. También las circunstancias me obligaron a este menester. Usufructuó dos máquinas, dos ampliadoras, una esmaltadora y otros varios accesorios, con los que he llegado a dominar bastante bien el arte fotográfico, como verás por las fotos que te voy a remitir. Incluso ilumino las fotos con colores.

Antes y en el Colegio de Castro me dediqué a la foto, por pura necesidad; pero ahora me sirve de sedante en los ratos de vacuidad en el cuarto, pues no quiero salir de él, si no es para las cosas precisas. En Castro había de preparar las fotos de los chicos, para presentarlas al Instituto al siguiente día, sin que los fotógrafos de dentro y de fuera se comprometieran a dármelas a debido tiempo. En tal caso, y en evitación de ulteriores angustias me decidí al arte fotográfico con bastante buenos resultados. En Calahorra, quiero que mi cuarto sea mi centro de estudio, de oración, de diversión y de reparación, sin que la tentación de la calle o del recreo perturbe mi retiro. Para entretener muchos ratos de ocio me viene a maravilla la foto, que descarga mis pesares, distrae los malos ratos e infunde optimismo cada vez que logro obtener artísticas fotos. Todo me resulta fácil, menos el retoque, en que no siempre acierto.

También han estado a visitarme Juli y Natichu, su única hija. Juli tiene tanto dinero como Poli.

Hablo muy a menudo por teléfono con Poli, que me suele encargar misas para los difuntos todos los meses. Por término medio son 15 al mes y de un estipendio muy superior al de aquí.

Pero tengo que manifestarte, querido Juan Luis, que nuestro hermano menor Francisco ha estado y está en vías de deshonorar el apellido, por su conducta poco correcta. Se ha casado con una mujer que Dios quiera que no sea tan comodona como hipócrita. El hecho es que le prestaron dinero para sus negocios Santiaguito, Poli, Marcelina y la prima Santa de Galdacano y ahora se niega a pagarles, alegando que en último término no disponen de un recibo firmado que lo pueda acreditar ante los tribunales. Hace un año me tuve que presentar en Bilbao y en el Ayuntamiento donde trabaja, para defenderle, puesto que le daban nada menos que la nota de ladrón... Hablé enérgicamente, en medio de los empleados, policías y concejales... Tengo mi aureola y mis amigos en Bilbao y en el Ayuntamiento y tal vez por mi silenciaron algunas cosas... Hoy te aseguro que no hablaría yo de la misma forma, porque lo que antes creía imposible en Francisco, ahora lo pongo en tela de juicio... Son muchas las correcciones que le voy haciendo y por diferentes conceptos de moralidad. A veces pienso que

9-8-46

Blessed Mother's Birthday-1946

Dear Father Aloysius:

I am very sad since I received Fr. Boyer's message yesterday telling me that my good friend, Fr. Regis Porter OSB died at San Gabriels NY last week, so I am appealing to you for some prayers for Father's soul. He has been ill for a long time, and was a cheerful sufferer, so I know he must have gone straight to heaven, but we cannot take a chance on that, so I shall be grateful if you will remember Father, who was always so thoughtful of others when on earth. He was very young and wanted to be cured for the good he could do for souls.

I have been reading the life of Louise Marie Brault today and will copy some passages which I think you will like. Marie often saw the holy souls in purgatory and I think I have already told you of the soul of the priest who appeared when her director was saying Mass, and making the sign of the Cross in an indifferent way. In that same letter she says:

"The priest, who is a representative of Christ, is himself like another Christ, who every day of his priestly life must immolate himself to save the people confided to Him. Oh, how holy and pure he must be, to correspond worthily with his noble vocation! How great is God in His just severity toward the unfaithful priest! The priest is the model of the world; and all his actions must be so perfect that he may say with truth, 'Do not what I say only, but what I do'. Our Lord punishes severely the priest who lacks respect and dignity in the exercise of his ministry, not so much on account of the action in itself as on account of the scandal it causes. How many indifferent Christians have lost what remained of their faith, in seeing a priest offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass without piety, making badly the sign of the cross, or giving his blessing with such a ridiculous sign that those who are witnesses of it wonder whether he has the faith...."

In another letter she said that if she were a priest she would be an Apostle of the Holy Suffering Souls, remembering them daily at Holy Mass.

My devotion is to the holy souls and Mother Didry often sends me books for my collection. Yesterday I received LITTLE MONTH OF THE SOULS IN PURGATORY, a delightful little book written by a Director of the "Oeuvre Expiatoire" and published in 1903. It contains the Heroic Act of Charity, which I made as a child, and renewed when I received the book. One of the examples tells of a priest who waived, in writing on his death-bed, all Masses, prayers, etc. which would be offered for him after death, to the relief of the holy souls.

There seems to be an increase in the number of souls, even some priests, who are today seeking messages from the mystics. Several priests have tried to convert me to the "shrine" in Phila. where such messages are given, often answers to questions pertaining to conscience matters of others, so I have St. John of the Cross on Spiritual Curiosity in English, which I will copy and circulate tomorrow. If you do not have this in English, and would like a copy, I will send one to you.

I have Sheed & Ward's new translation of St. Catherine of Genoa's treatise on purgatory and dialogue, but it was a disappointment. It is just released, and I will be glad to loan it to you if you are interested.

Thank you for remembering Father Regis

Sincerely in Christ

Betty

Holy Mass - That means
more to us than you
can ever imagine. Let
me tell you this
though that we, and all
of us are unanimous
in saying it, - we are
the ones that owe you
much - not you us.

I shall write you
at length when time
is more free. Suffice
it to say I am more
generously attached to
His will in my regard.
Keep up your holy prayers
for me and my community.

I feel the force of some-
one's prayers. May you
be blessed a hundredfold
for everything you have
ever done for us.

Union of prayer and sacrifice.

Sister Mary

L. M. J.

O. L. A.

Manitowish, Ill.

Sept. 10-46

My dear Spiritual Father:

These few lines are to tell
you that we received the
two packages for which we
are most grateful. Especially
do we want to thank you
for remembering us at

J. M. J.

SERVANTS OF THE HOLY HEART OF MARY
PROVINCIAL HOUSE
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Sept. 14/46.

Reverend Father Aloysius.
Compton, California:

Reverend and dear Father :-

Thank you so much for your kind letter, the books and Souvenir pictures of your Silver Jubilee. As you requested, I have forwarded books and pictures to Champaign and our Sisters in Arkansas. No doubt all will be as appreciative as I am for your kindness.

I must say that my joy was tampered by this: not knowing it was your Silver Jubilee this year.

It might have seemed indifference on my part, but let me assure you, Reverend Father, the first I heard of it was through your letter. I am sure you will pardon this apparent negligence of mine, knowing the circumstances.

I though belated, my Congratulations
are none the less sincere. Since
there is no past nor future for
God, my prayerful wishes are
timely, therefore accept my
feeble prayers which I try to
make fervent in your behalf.

May we join in thanksgiving
with you in the Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass for which is enclosed
a stipend for a high mass for
your intentions and ours.

It is the Gift of gifts - May it
draw down on you and yours
countless graces and blessings.

Please beg through this sacrifice,
great sanctity for the Servants
of the Holy Heart of Mary; also,
please have an intention for
our General Chapter. As it has
been postponed, we do not yet
know when it will take place.

Yes, our retreats are over and
it was rather strenuous work
to interview all the Sisters, but
God gave me many consolations

J. M. J

ST. GALL CONVENT
5514 S. KEDZIE AVE.
CHICAGO 29, ILL.

Sept. 15, 1946

Dear Father:

Many thanks for your kind gift of books. I am afraid we are the debtors, not you.

Please pardon my delay in thanking you. School began and there seems to be no end to the really important things that had to be taken

care of immediately. Our enrollment is
close to 600. They are really a lovely group of
children. That we might bring them to
have God more! If only we could in-
culcate in them a personal love of Christ,
and His Blessed Mother, then there would
be no worries. With Jesus and Mary all
things are possible.

Thank you, once again, for your
prayers and remembrance.

Sincerely yours in the Holy Trinity
Sister Anita Marie

J. M. J.

O. L. A.

Manteno, Illinois

Sept. 15, 1946.

Rev. Aloysius E. Macura
Compton, California

My dear Spiritual Father:

Today is the feast of our Lady of Sorrows and I am not going to High Mass as my duties keep me here today. I decided I would at least begin a letter to you. We have a full house of lively, good children under our care, and I pray God to bless us and our work for Him, and to make these His little ones docile and cooperative with the graces He would bestow upon them.

The sisters were all pleased to receive the cords and books you sent as souvenirs of your Jubilee of religious profession. Your spiritual thermometer must be registering high since this big event, and it gives me untold pleasure to know we participate in your holy prayers for us, and all mankind. May God abundantly award you for all you

do for us, and have done in the
past.

I know you are still vitally
interested in my soul progress: (or
otherwise?) as mentioned in my
last note to you I feel myself
more generously attuned to God and
His holy will. The past year was
a long hard one, and so terrible
that when I look back now it
seems like a horrid dream. I thank
Him for having given me the courage
to carry on even though I covered
my cross so reluctantly. Had He
not borne the heavier weight I
could not have done even that. I
am still bearing the brunt of my
doastic work, but in that it
has meant the return and con-
version of a widdy religious to
God, it seems to me to have been
but a small cost. I received
almost as much a reproof for my
action as did the disobedient religious

and was so reproved by each member of the Council. I am convinced that they are mistaken in their judgment. I dare go further in complete disagreement with them - that I did before God the more perfect thing. There are some things beyond the understanding of others, although the soul knows what God desires. I discussed this matter with our retreat master, Father Wastmann, and he thinks as I in this case. He moreover said: There is such a thing as the gift of Counsel by which God enlightens a soul what to do in particular cases, and left me under the impression that this was so in the difficulty with which I was confronted. I have lost in the eyes of men, those who regard him for me, but with this has come a greater trust in God -

a greater seeking for His good
pleasure in all things, and a
disregard for the opinion and
esteem of men which is as
naught as compared with God.
I am determinedly resolved to
more purely and simply seek
to please Him in all things.
Do not misunderstand me in
this I completely submitted to
their judgment in this matter
and offered to accept any penance
they might see fit to impose,
but I do not see as they see
nor need I. They can no more
judge of this than can I the
actions of others, ~~to~~ unless God
give me light to see clearly
beyond the human reasoning.
For my greater good He did not
choose to let them see. I
accepted the humiliation and their
present attitude as well. One thing

-3-

alone somewhat disquiets me and it is this: My very frank im-
pression was taken amiss and inter-
preted most unfavorably. Because
of this complete want of under-
standing, and the fact that any
attempt to clarify only makes
things more muddled, and
makes me as it were sink,
deeper. I have determined to go
my way silently as possible
discussing only the must or
important things, but in all
things striving to be mindful of
Him and His wishes. It seems
to me my family spirit is
completely killed, and I am
appalled at the interpretation
placed on the things I say and
do, until it seems to me
impossible to please even those
who are saints, or at least in
the making. This inability to

please men, this word of under-
standing has strengthened my
living for Him, "the only Reality!"
I move forward with greater
security because I am not
hampered by man and his
opinions, while I strive to be
humbly docile to their wishes in
so far as possible. I have resolved
for this year to be more Christ^{like}~~like~~
in speech and particularly to work
on weaknesses. There was a time
when I thought I should never
be stilled to impatience again -
but I was so exhausted this
summer, I had to exert
constant effort for self-mastery.
I am feeling much better
now, and for the present
am enjoying a certain tran-
quillity. To keep myself from
all uneasiness and concern
I am persevering in my

-4-

effort to live for God in complete
self-forgetfulness, leaving all care
of self to Him. He told St.
Theresa: Think of Me, and I will
think of thee. Sometimes it is
most difficult when there is
neither light nor certainty, but
with the strength of His grace
and love I can carry on,
and I must! Please pray for
my needy soul that I may
keep faithful to Him. I so
long to possess and be united
to God, to belong to Him
alone, and yet I am so
unmindful of Him. I so need the
help of your holy prayers - the
assurance of these is an encourage-
ment to go on. We are having Holy
Mass in our chapel about five days a
week, at the Montevideo State Hospital

Chaplain is residing there now, and they have no chapel at present. It is a real thrill and joy to assist at Holy Mass there, and as we are only three or four. I kneel up in front very close to the altar. I assure you of a daily remembrance.

Do you have the book Living with Christ in God by Bernier de Louvain? If not, let me know. It is splendid, and I am using it for my Meditation. I am reading "Spirit in Darkness", Companion to Book 2 of the Ascent of Mt. Carmel, by Rev. Father Brice, C.P. I find both of these books very helpful in my present state. These two books are rather recent publications.

Our prayerful wishes for a very holy year. May He continue to shower upon you and your work the plenitude of His divine grace and blessing.

Respectfully in J. M. I.

Sister Mary

me. Father, it is I who am
ungrateful, even unfaithful
to you. I feel that I owe
you restitution for all that
I should have done but
did not do. I have never
formally revoked my offering
of myself for you and your
Congregation - priests, seminarians,
and novices - but I think
that by my tepidity and
lack of all fervor, I have
acted as though I had
taken back my word.

Father, do you know all that
I mean? I wish I could
talk to you for just one
hour. But to go back - I
will start over again and
try to do as I promised
in the Feast of Mary's Holy
Heart in 1942. I want to be
offered for you, as I did
then, and I shall not change
my mind. I know that

J.M.J.

5514 S. Kedzie Avenue
Chicago 29, Illinois
September 15, 1946

Reverend Father Alving:

Dear Father,

I greet you in the Heart of
our God whom you carry always
with you, and in the Heart of
our sorrowful Mother whom
we honor today. After that,
how can I approach you
except as a most unworthy
and unfaithful daughter? I
trust that you know all, yet
I sometimes wish that you
were here.

Your kind letter came
at the beginning of August.
I am unable to thank you
for such delicacy in think-
ing of my dear parents and
me. My father wrote soon
after to tell me what you
had done and how touched
they were by your goodness.

Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Claretian Major Seminary

18127 South Alameda

Compton, California

September 19, 1946.

Dear Mrs. Mechleis,

This is a reminder that I am praying for you and asking for you to Our Sacramental King and Our Blessed Mother to draw you every day to a higher degree of spiritual perfection.

Very many thanks for your thoughtful donation and the Holy Mass for your saintly mother in law that received immediate attention.

Did you receive the right party for your home? Pray to Blessed Claret for it. I will do same for you. I am sending to you a copy of Blessed Anthony's Autobiography.

I want to ask you a very big and unusual favour, which means so much to my spiritual life. You are telling me in your letters that you are acquainted with Theresa Neumann and that you write to her. Please, dear Mrs. Mechleis, I entreat you in all secrecy and confidence to write to Theresa Neumann and ask her whether it is really true or not that I, Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F., an unworthy son of Blessed Anthony Mary Claret, residing at present at Dominguez Seminary, Compton, Calif., have the same extraordinary favour that Blessed Claret had, it is, the preservation of Sacramental Species or the Blessed Sacrament in my body from one Communion to another since Holy Thursday of 1941. Several mystics have reassured me of this, but I miserable sinner...doubt it. But if Our Lord in His Infinite Goodness would reveal it to Theresa Neumann and then notify me through you I would be, indeed, most grateful. Do send Theresa Neumann the enclosed holy pictures of the Silver Jubilee of my First Holy Profession.

May the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary bless you most abundantly.

Most gratefully,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

Hail, Heart of Mary
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Claretian Major Seminary
18127 South Alameda
Compton, California

September 23, 1946.

Dear Miss Kelly,

This is a letter of thanks for the many letters that I have been receiving from you. Your letters convey to me much additional knowledge that is of the greatest help to me. You are acquainted with some of the holiest priests and deeply spiritual souls, and your anecdotes on them are most timely. They help me greatly to broaden my spiritual outlook. So I want you to have the kindness to continue to inform me as in the past.

I have been praying for Father Regis Porter. May his saintly soul intercede for us from Heaven.

I do not have the copy of the booklet "Eucharistic Miracles". If you have an extra copy, I will be very thankful to you for it. I have been acquainted for a long time with the book by Poulain on "The Graces of Interior Prayer". It is one of my customs to buy the best spiritual books for the Communities to which I am assigned. I will highly appreciate it if you will send "The Apostolate of Prayer" by Father Eiton with his autograph. I am sending you an "Autobiography of Blessed Anthony Mary Claret" for him. I am sorry to hear that the new translation of St. Catherine of Genoa's treatise on Purgatory and Dialogue was a disappointment. We have here the book "Spirit of Flame" by Allison Peers.

What you tell me about Father Parente means much to me, and this, as everything else, will always remain in complete secrecy.

Your excerpts from the life of Blessed Theophane as well as from "The Divine Sequence", and lastly from the life of Louise Marie Broult, have been deeply pondered over by me.

Remember me to all those holy souls that you know, with my request that we may mutually exchange prayers.

The Newman Book Shop is now publishing the life of Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity, with an introduction by Father La Grange, O.P. I have ordered it for our library as soon as it is published.

I am very glad that your name is Gertrude, since the life, the spirit, and the writings of Saint Gertrude are most appealing to me. We are getting near to her Feast, the 16th. of November. Let us ask of her for each other above all her unlimited confidence in God, her love for the Heart of Jesus and the Passion of Our Lord, and her compassion for the Poor Souls.

You are constantly remembered in my prayers and blessings.

Gratefully in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

9-30-46

Feast of St. Jerome-1946

Dear Father Aloysius:

It was my intention to write to Joe and ask him to send some booklets to England, but I want to ask you about a certain book, so will write to you instead. The book is RED DOMINATION IN SPAIN. I am wondering if you have read it, Father; if not, I shall be happy to loan you one of my copies. It is the Spanish white book and it is a book you will want to read, if you have not done so already....it is full of horror stories and the most gruesome illustrations, showing the tortures suffered by the Spanish martyrs before they were put to death; desecration, etc. and one cannot read this book without praying hard for the Spanish people....it is the handwriting on the wall.

The enclosed postal note is for a few booklets (Im. Heart of Mary novena) and a few of the Act of Consecration leaflets to be sent to

Mr. William Hurst

36 Prospect Hill

Leicester, England.

Bill said the Franciscan^s tertiaries in his group have just consecrated themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and he wants the literature for some of his friends.

The IMMACULATE HEART CLIENT came this morning and already I have enjoyed several of the articles. CONFIDENTIALLY, GIRLS was very good. Going to Mass in the morning I have often had the thought that if the women would make themselves more attractive in the morning there would be fewer divorces. We can see them going to the stores with their hair in curlers, yesterday's make-up on their faces, rumpled and not very clean dresses, and I don't blame the men for not wanting to live with them. I was delighted with the article by Peter McCafferty. Kilmer is my favorite poet and I think everyone engaged in Catholic Action should read his letters. I do not agree with Mr. McCafferty, however, on the Blue Valentine. He wrote that poem to his wife, and it was always my understanding that he was describing his wife and paying her the beautiful tribute of saying she was a model of Our Lady, because in the last lines he gives thanks to Our Lady for wearing a blue gown, the color of Aline's gown. The Blue Valentine is my favorite of the Kilmer poems.

Father, have you seen the booklet MORE ABOUT FATIMA, published by Gill, Ireland? Newman is the agent in this country. It is the best on the subject and I am receiving many comments about it. If you do not have a copy please let me know so I may send one. I suppose you have little time for reading, but this booklet is one you should read because it contains many things not published in the other booklets on Fatima. I went to Washington last Saturday to join some friends who were there for the weekend from Cleveland. We went to the Shrine of the Im. Conception and while in the book-store one of the nuns, a stranger to me, gave me a beautiful medal of Our Lady of Fatima. I was so glad to get it, especially on that day which was the anniv. of the third apparition at Fatima. I am going to order some of these medals and will remember you if you are interested. A priest in Wis. (Franciscan) liked the Fatima booklet so much that he ordered every booklet adv. on the last page from Gill...all on the Immaculate Heart of Mary and he has promised me GUARD OF HONOR OF MARY, a devotion which Holy Father gave to Franciscans...the booklet has not come yet and I know nothing about the devotion.

I hope you are bearing up under this terrific weather....I suppose it is just as hot in your part of the country as it is here. I am hopelessly behind in my correspondence and am enjoying the storm we are now having, because if a breeze stirs later I will be able to finish most of my letters.

With best wishes and begging your priestly blessing, I am

Sincerely in Christ

Betty

PS Thank you Father, and thanks to Joe, for taking care of the enclosed order for me.... B

PFS Father, please try to find time to read the verses on the enclosed pictures...especially the one about the birds. B

9-30-46

Feast of St. Jerome-1946

Dear Father Algysius:

Many thanks for your interesting letter. I am so very happy to know that you have enjoyed what I was able to send you, and I will try to remember to pass on to you in future all edifying stories which comes to my desk. My scrap books are full of the most beautiful stories, if only there was time to copy some of them, but I am hopelessly behind in my correspondence because of time I have been devoting to our lecture given yesterday evening by Mr. Haffert. We were delighted with the crowd, the main ball room which is quite large was filled to the doors and we had to put the overflow in the balconies. The lecture was held at The Alcazar, which is the Kof C.Home. I enjoyed the talk because Mr. Haffert brought out many interesting points on communism, but in talking among my friends today I was disappointed to learn that practically all of them did not like the talk particularly, because they wanted to hear more about Fatima and Mr. Haffert told little about that. We had a short meeting at 3 in the afternoon at St. Ignatius Rectory where Fr. Ryan presented us to the speaker, and then Mr. Haffert told us something of his trip to Fatima, etc. He also mentioned the apparitions at Kerrytown, Ireland. I think I have mentioned this to you in a former letter, but I knew nothing other than that Bl. Mother was appearing there. Mr. Haffert said that Our Lady appears on a large rock, she stands facing America with the scapular in Her hands, and peoples from all walks of life, i.e. theologians, peasants, professional men and women, children, et al, of all creeds have seen Her. Sometime ago I wrote to a nun in Dublin for information, so if it comes I will pass it on to you.

Mr. Haffert, prior to the lecture, had sent me some publicity hints and among them an interesting bit of news. On his trip abroad he arranged with Cardinals of France, Portugal, also USA to take part in an international broadcast honoring Our Lady on Dec. 8th next, and in audience with Holy Father he asked permission for this broadcast, and Holy Father said that he, too, would participate and send his blessing. During the lecture he told of his audience and said that when Holy Father walked into the room it almost broke his heart to see the tragedy and sadness in the face of His Holiness; he also said that when Mons. Sheen visited Holy Father and asked how he felt about his election to the Papacy Holy Father answered by saying "when I received the news I suffered in one single moment all the agony of ". I could not get the last word, probably "lifetime". Mr. Haffert is quite dramatic, he is on high C one moment and hits bottom the next, which is not very satisfactory for the audience. I took a few notes but haven't typed them up yet, and doubt now if I will because the talk was recorded and I think I can get copies. He did speak of certain people in Europe, one a statesman with whom Genl. Patton lived and another a Cath. Action leader, both had sold all their property at a tremendous loss to get out of Europe in a hurry as the consensus of opinion there is that war with Russia is inevitable.... Mr. Haffert wonders how far America will go in opposing such a war, he is ~~very~~ optimistic if he thinks our Red government will do anything. He said that 249 million cases of relief goods have gone into Yugoslavia or rather into Europe and that 1/6 of all these relief gifts go to Yugoslavia and are confiscated by the reds, the people getting very little. A high ranking governmental official whom he met in France told him that the food is not distributed fairly in any country, as the reds have control of these gifts, and that in this little Normandy town 10 houses remained standing, and this man begged Haffert to tell the people in America to send food to the nuns, especially canned milk for the babies, as this is their only chance of getting something to eat. He said (Haffert) said the Americans are fooled by the elections in France and Italy, as the communists control everything--- Ministry of Food, Transportation, Commerce, etc. which is a gloomy outlook in the event of war. In Rome the hammer and sickle is painted or pasted on doors of all buildings with an appeal to the youth to arise to the banner of atheistic communism. When he asked the Bishop of Fatima what he thought of the problems which confront the world, the Bishop answered saying that the situation is a grave one, that the chances of peace are remote, in fact the chances that there is a possibility of peace simply do not exist. He asked the Bishop what he thought would be the chance of Russia being converted and His Excellency answered that there is the possibility of Divine aid, nothing else will help us. I think I have said that throughout Europe the people are of the opinion that there will be a Russian war before January 1947. I could go on and on and on, but had better switch to another subject before I am really on the soap box.

I will be glad to send you a copy of Eucharistic Miracles, one of my favorite booklets, but have none on hand...will have a supply soon. Today I received the autob. for Father Eiton and thank you for sending it. I will write to Irene Clunan of Detroit and ask her to give me the address of this priest, then will get a copy of his book for you. Are you familiar with HOW TO PRAY by Abbe Grou SJ? A mystic man recommended this book sometime ago and I had forgotten about it until a few evenings ago when I was going thru some of the letters I received from her. Do you have DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUAL PERFECTION by Fr. Stolz, also CONFESSIONS OF DOM BAKER....I have these two books in case you are interested. I have so many wonderful books but so little time to enjoy them. I have ordered life of Sr. Elizabeth of the Trinity, but it is the autobiography which I am trying to get; somehow nothing but the inspired writings will satisfy me.

Yes, I am fortunate to have the name of the great mystical writer, St. Gertrude, thanks to my mother. My dad wanted me named after her, but it is the name I took as a Benedictine Oblate which I love best of all...that is Paul, after that great fighter and fearless leader the golden tongued orator St. Paul...if we had a Paul in our midst today the communists would all be seeking a fox-hole to hide themselves. If you would like to read Marie Louis Brault I will send it...her letters are masterpieces, written under obedience. Perhaps I am wrong about St. Catherine of Genoa, as I am no judge, so if you would like to read it just let me know, but it seems to me that the book is a little confusing...the author seems to jump around too much, and leaves the reader in a state of confusion; at least that was my reaction. I had only 10 yrs. at St. Mary's and finished the 1 yr. business course in 6 months, so when I speak of a book being good or bad it is my own reaction and I could be so very wrong.

Did I tell you that Father Clarus is now Prior....I believe I did. I think that was a wonderful choice on the part of Father Abbot as the priests should look to the Prior for the good example, and in my opinion this humble Benedictine is a real living saint, but he would be horrified to hear me make such a statement and, of course, I would not offend his humility by letting him know that I feel that way about him.

I believe you are Spanish so this will interest you, although it may not be new to you. In 1937 about 200 RC children were collected and taken for safety from Reds to a small town (I ~~didn't~~ was not told the name by my Southampton informant) near to Gibraltar. They were cared for by nuns whose convent was across the road from the Church. One day the children were in church when those in front pew became very excited and inclined to hysterics - the Crucifix on the wall near them attracted attention - the Head of the figure turned from side to side, then a little later the nuns found the Head turning and nearly fainted. All were told to remain silent on the matter. Some months later two French men students visited the Church. They became alarmed as they knelt in front of the Crucifix for the same reason. They sought out the priest and tried to explain - they could not speak Spanish. The whole story is spoken in whispers, so if I get more details will let you know. Nothing about this has been published. Our Lord and Our Lady seem to be moving heaven and earth to bring us to our senses, and yet we remain indifferent; however, it was encouraging last evening to see so many application blanks filled out and dropped in the box for our newly formed Society of Reparation. It is almost miraculous how we have grown from a few members in April to close to 300 at present and Sister Lucy sent us a timely message, that each member must do some little act of penance daily in order to comply with Bl. Mother's wishes. Father ~~mentioned~~ reacted to this message by saying this should be done under the direction of the confessor, but I do not entirely agree with him, because I think that might lead to pride for the average person, and it would be so much easier and less dangerous to withhold some uncharitable remark, remain thirsty for awhile, give alms, etc. so I am going to make this suggestion to Father. Perhaps I shouldn't but I have a strong urge to do so...don't you think that would lessen the dangers of pride and scrupulosity?

I am happy to know that you are pleased with your spiritual directors...Fr. Boyer always says that the wrong director can ruin a spiritual life. I have followed your advice and asked some of my friends to remember you and that you, in turn, will remember them.

Please remember me during Our Lady's month when you tell your beads.

Sincerely in Christ

Betty

PS Mr. Haffert said Sr. Lucy now sees Infant Jesus.